(b) whether it is a fact that some States have requested Government for deferment of the project for at least 6—12 months on the ground of financial constraints; and

(c) if so, the names of such States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) The date of implementation for High Security Registration Plate for the new motor vehicles has been postponed to 1st January, 2004 because at the recently held Transport Development Council meeting held on 16.1.2003 almost all States stated that they need more time to be ready for implementing the scheme.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Roads in Hilly Areas

†2454. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that petrol and diesel worth ten thousand crores of rupees is being wasted each year in the country due to movement on long, rough and rugged, miserable and circuitous roads;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that even today people of hilly areas of Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh have to walk for miles due to lack of enough link roads;

(c) the steps taken by Government for connecting link roads of villages of hilly areas to major roads and widening them and converting them into metalled roads; and

(d) the details of works carried out in both the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) This Ministry is responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways in the country. The National Highways are maintained in traffic worthy condition within the available

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

resources. Ministry has not done any assessment on wastage of fuels on National Highways.

(c) Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojna (PMGSY), being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development, all villages having habitations of 1000 and above would be connected by all weather roads by 2003 and villages having habitations above 500 would be connected by all weather roads by 2007.

(d) The details of works undertaken on Rural Roads in the States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal are as under:

Sl.No.	State	Proposals approved		No. of works completed	Expenditure upto Jan. 2003 (Rs. in crore)
		No.	Amount (Rs. in crore)		
1.	Himachal Pradesh	273	192.36	124	106.15
2.	Uttaranchal	161	199.40	22	48.27

Upgradation of Coastal Highways of Gujarat

2455. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
DR. A.K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that though Gujarat has 25 per cent of the country's coast line with many ports, the coastal highways along this coast has not been upgraded to National Highway;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) whether Government consider the necessity of upgrading the coastal highways of Gujarat from the defence point of view;

(d) if so, the time-frame for the purpose; and

(e) what consideration has been made in respect of the State Government's proposal for upgradation of 13 State Highways totalling 2800 Kms. on priority?